

the condition of education 2007



INDICATOR 5

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2007*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2007*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007064>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Elementary/Secondary Education

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

The percentage of racial/ethnic minority students enrolled in the nation's public schools increased between 1972 and 2005, primarily due to growth in Hispanic enrollments.

The shifting racial and ethnic composition of enrollment in U.S. public schools is one aspect of change in the composition of school enrollment. This indicator looks at the changes that occurred in the racial and ethnic distribution of public school students in kindergarten through 12th grade between 1972 and 2005.

Forty-two percent of public school students were considered to be part of a racial or ethnic minority group in 2005, an increase from 22 percent of students in 1972 (see supplemental table 5-1). In comparison, the percentage of public school students who were White decreased from 78 to 58 percent. The minority increase largely reflected the growth in the proportion of students who were Hispanic. In 2005, Hispanic students represented 20 percent of public school enrollment, up from 6 percent in 1972. The proportion of public school students who were Hispanic increased more than the proportion of students who were Black or who were members of other minority groups. For example, in 2005, Black students made up 16 percent of public school enrollment compared with 15 percent in 1972. Hispanic enrollment measurably surpassed Black enrollment for the first time in 2002. Together,

Asian (4 percent), Pacific Islander (0.2 percent), and American Indian/Alaska Native (0.7 percent) students and students of more than one race (3 percent) made up 7 percent of public school enrollment in 2005, compared with 1 percent combined in 1972.

The distribution of minority students in public schools differed by region, though minority enrollment generally grew in all regions between 1972 and 2005 (see supplemental table 5-2). Throughout this period, the South and West had larger minority enrollments than the Northeast and Midwest, and the Midwest had the smallest minority enrollment of any region. In the West, beginning in 2003, minority enrollment exceeded White enrollment. In 2005, minority students accounted for 54 percent of public school enrollment in the West, compared with 46 percent for White students. In 2005, as in most years since 1972, the number of Hispanic students exceeded the number of Black students in the West. In the South and Midwest, however, Black enrollment continued to exceed that of Hispanics. In 2005, students of more than one race were a larger percentage of total public school enrollment in the West than in any other region.

Rounds to zero.

¹In 1972, "Other" includes all students who did not identify themselves as White, Black, or Hispanic. In 2005, "Other" includes Asian students, Pacific Islander students, American Indian/Alaska Native students, and students of more than one race.

NOTE: Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Figures include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. See supplemental note 2 for more information on the Current Population Survey. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972 and 2005.

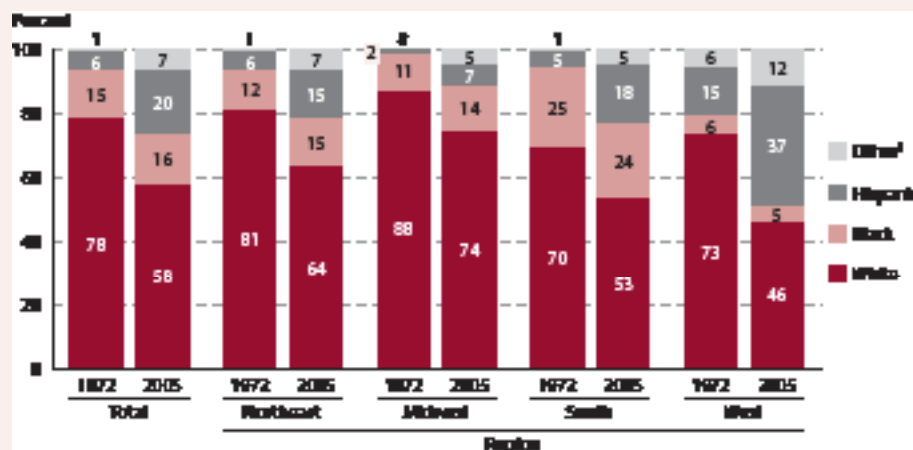
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Supplemental Notes 1,2

Supplemental Tables 5-1, 5-2



MINORITY ENROLLMENT: Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Fall 1972 and 2005



Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

Table 5-1. Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade: Fall 1972–2005

Fall of year	Minority enrollment							
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race
1972	77.8	22.2	14.8	6.0	—	—	—	—
1973	78.1	21.9	14.7	5.7	—	—	—	—
1974	76.8	23.2	15.4	6.3	—	—	—	—
1975	76.2	23.8	15.4	6.7	—	—	—	—
1976	76.2	23.8	15.5	6.5	—	—	—	—
1977	76.1	23.9	15.8	6.2	—	—	—	—
1978	75.5	24.5	16.0	6.5	—	—	—	—
1979	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1980	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1981	72.4	27.6	16.0	8.7	—	—	—	—
1982	71.9	28.1	16.0	8.9	—	—	—	—
1983	71.3	28.7	16.1	9.2	—	—	—	—
1984	71.7	28.3	16.1	8.5	—	—	—	—
1985	69.6	30.4	16.8	10.1	—	—	—	—
1986	69.1	30.9	16.6	10.8	—	—	—	—
1987	68.5	31.5	16.6	10.8	—	—	—	—
1988	68.3	31.7	16.5	11.0	—	—	—	—
1989	68.0	32.0	16.6	11.4	3.0 ¹	(¹)	0.9	—
1990	67.6	32.4	16.5	11.7	3.0 ¹	(¹)	0.9	—
1991	67.1	32.9	16.8	11.8	3.2 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—
1992	66.8	33.2	16.9	12.0	3.3 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—
1993	67.0	33.0	16.6	12.1	3.3 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—
1994	65.8	34.2	16.7	13.7	2.5 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—
1995	65.5	34.5	16.9	14.1	2.3 ¹	(¹)	0.6	—
1996	63.7	36.3	16.6	14.5	4.1 ¹	(¹)	1.2	—
1997	63.0	37.0	16.9	14.9	3.9 ¹	(¹)	1.2	—
1998	62.4	37.6	17.2	15.4	4.0 ¹	(¹)	1.1	—
1999	61.9	38.1	16.5	16.2	4.5 ¹	(¹)	1.0	—
2000	61.3	38.7	16.6	16.6	4.2 ¹	(¹)	1.3	—
2001	61.3	38.7	16.5	16.6	4.3 ¹	(¹)	1.3	—
2002	60.7	39.3	16.5	17.6	4.0 ¹	(¹)	1.2	—
2003	58.3	41.7	16.1	18.6	3.7	0.3	0.6	2.4
2004	57.4	42.6	16.0	19.3	3.9	0.2	0.8	2.4
2005	57.6	42.4	15.6	19.7	3.7	0.2	0.7	2.5

— Not available.

¹ From 1989 through 2002, Asian and Pacific Islander students were not reported separately; therefore, Pacific Islander students are included with Asian students during this period.

NOTE: Figures include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Over time, the Current Population Survey (CPS) has had different response options for race/ethnicity. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. In 1996, the Census revised procedures for editing and allocating the race variable to offset an underestimation of Asians/Pacific Islanders. One should use caution when making comparisons between data for 1995 and earlier and data for 1996 and later. See *supplemental note 2* for more information on the CPS. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2005.

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

Table 5-2. Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Selected years, Fall 1972–2005

Region and fall of year	Minority enrollment								
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
Northeast									
1972	81.4	18.6	12.4	5.5	—	—	—	—	0.7
1977	80.4	19.6	12.6	5.8	—	—	—	—	1.3
1982	76.1	23.9	13.4	8.3	—	—	—	—	2.3
1987	74.2	25.8	13.1	9.5	—	—	—	—	3.3
1992	71.9	28.1	14.7	9.8	3.2 ¹	(¹)	0.1 [!]	—	0.3 [!]
1997	67.7	32.3	16.1	12.3	3.5 ¹	(¹)	0.4	—	—
2002	67.9	32.1	15.1	13.1	3.7 ¹	(¹)	0.3	—	—
2003	64.8	35.2	16.0	13.7	3.7	‡	0.2 [!]	1.5	—
2004	63.7	36.3	15.5	13.9	5.1	‡	0.2 [!]	1.5	—
2005	63.5	36.5	15.1	14.5	5.2	‡	‡	1.5	—
Midwest									
1972	87.5	12.5	10.6	1.5	—	—	—	—	0.3
1977	85.7	14.3	11.8	1.7	—	—	—	—	0.8
1982	84.6	15.4	11.8	1.8	—	—	—	—	1.7
1987	80.7	19.3	13.8	3.1	—	—	—	—	2.4
1992	81.5	18.5	13.2	2.7	1.5 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—	0.3 [!]
1997	79.3	20.7	13.3	4.5	1.7 ¹	(¹)	1.1	—	—
2002	75.5	24.5	14.5	6.4	2.6 ¹	(¹)	1.0	—	—
2003	74.4	25.6	14.2	6.4	2.2	0.2 [!]	0.4	2.2	—
2004	74.4	25.6	13.5	6.6	2.3	‡	0.5	2.5	—
2005	74.1	25.9	13.8	7.1	1.9	#	0.6	2.5	—
South									
1972	69.7	30.3	24.8	5.0	—	—	—	—	0.5
1977	67.5	32.5	26.3	5.5	—	—	—	—	0.6
1982	64.1	35.9	26.9	7.9	—	—	—	—	1.1
1987	61.9	38.1	26.3	9.6	—	—	—	—	2.2
1992	59.5	40.5	27.3	10.5	1.9 ¹	(¹)	0.6	—	0.1 [!]
1997	57.0	43.0	27.0	13.4	1.6 ¹	(¹)	0.9	—	—
2002	54.2	45.8	26.2	16.6	1.9 ¹	(¹)	1.0	—	—
2003	53.6	46.4	24.8	16.9	2.1	‡	0.6	2.0	—
2004	53.7	46.3	24.5	16.6	2.4	0.1 [!]	0.6	2.2	—
2005	52.9	47.1	23.9	18.3	1.8	‡	0.6	2.4	—

See notes at end of table.

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

Table 5-2. Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Selected years, Fall 1972–2005—Continued

Region and fall of year	Minority enrollment								
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
West									
1972	72.8	27.2	6.4	15.3	—	—	—	—	5.5
1977	72.2	27.8	6.7	14.8	—	—	—	—	6.3
1982	65.2	34.8	5.4	19.9	—	—	—	—	9.5
1987	60.3	39.7	7.1	22.9	—	—	—	—	9.7
1992	58.5	41.5	5.8	26.3	7.5 ¹	(¹)	1.6	—	0.2 [!]
1997	52.1	47.9	6.5	29.4	9.8 ¹	(¹)	2.3	—	—
2002	51.0	49.0	5.8	32.6	8.2 ¹	(¹)	2.4	—	—
2003	45.9	54.1	5.2	35.5	7.5	1.0	1.2	3.6	—
2004	42.9	57.1	6.0	38.7	6.9	0.6	1.6	3.3	—
2005	45.6	54.4	5.2	36.6	6.9	0.6	1.3	3.6	—

— Not available.

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

¹ From 1989 through 2002, Asian and Pacific Islander students were not reported separately; therefore, Pacific Islander students are included with Asian students during this period.

NOTE: Figures include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Over time, the Current Population Survey (CPS) has had different response options for race/ethnicity. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. In 1996, the Census revised procedures for editing and allocating the race variable to offset an underestimation of Asians/Pacific Islanders. One should use caution when making comparisons between data for 1995 and earlier and data for 1996 and later. See *supplemental note 2* for more information on the CPS. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, selected years, 1972–2005.

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

Table S5-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade: Fall 1972–2005

Fall of year	Minority enrollment								Other
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	
1972	0.28	0.33	0.28	0.29	†	†	†	†	0.09
1973	0.28	0.33	0.28	0.29	†	†	†	†	0.10
1974	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.30	†	†	†	†	0.10
1975	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.31	†	†	†	†	0.10
1976	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.30	†	†	†	†	0.10
1977	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.30	†	†	†	†	0.11
1978	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.31	†	†	†	†	0.12
1979	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
1980	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
1981	0.32	0.37	0.31	0.36	†	†	†	†	0.14
1982	0.34	0.40	0.33	0.39	†	†	†	†	0.16
1983	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.40	†	†	†	†	0.16
1984	0.35	0.40	0.33	0.38	†	†	†	†	0.17
1985	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.35	†	†	†	†	0.16
1986	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.36	†	†	†	†	0.17
1987	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.36	†	†	†	†	0.17
1988	0.39	0.45	0.36	0.40	†	†	†	†	0.19
1989	0.37	0.42	0.34	0.38	0.15	†	0.09	†	0.03
1990	0.36	0.42	0.34	0.38	0.15	†	0.09	†	0.05
1991	0.36	0.42	0.34	0.38	0.16	†	0.08	†	0.04
1992	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.38	0.16	†	0.08	†	0.04
1993	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.37	0.16	†	0.08	†	0.04
1994	0.36	0.41	0.33	0.39	0.14	†	0.08	†	0.06
1995	0.33	0.35	0.28	0.28	0.11	†	0.06	†	0.06
1996	0.33	0.35	0.27	0.27	0.14	†	0.08	†	†
1997	0.34	0.36	0.28	0.29	0.15	†	0.08	†	†
1998	0.35	0.37	0.29	0.29	0.15	†	0.08	†	†
1999	0.34	0.37	0.28	0.30	0.16	†	0.08	†	†
2000	0.35	0.37	0.28	0.30	0.15	†	0.08	†	†
2001	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.28	0.14	†	0.08	†	†
2002	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.29	0.14	†	0.00	†	†
2003	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.29	0.13	0.04	0.06	0.10	†
2004	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.30	0.14	0.03	0.06	0.10	†
2005	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.30	0.13	0.03	0.06	0.10	†

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2005.

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

Table S5-2. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Selected years, Fall 1972–2005

Region and fall of year	Minority enrollment								
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
Northeast									
1972	0.53	0.61	0.52	0.55	†	†	†	†	0.13
1977	0.55	0.65	0.54	0.58	†	†	†	†	0.18
1982	0.67	0.78	0.63	0.78	†	†	†	†	0.27
1987	0.71	0.83	0.64	0.72	†	†	†	†	0.34
1992	0.75	0.87	0.69	0.75	0.34	†	0.06	†	0.10
1997	0.71	0.75	0.59	0.56	0.29	†	0.10	†	†
2002	0.70	0.74	0.57	0.57	0.30	†	0.09	†	†
2003	0.72	0.76	0.59	0.59	0.30	†	0.07	0.18	†
2004	0.73	0.77	0.58	0.59	0.35	†	0.07	0.18	†
2005	0.72	0.77	0.57	0.60	0.35	†	†	0.18	†
Midwest									
1972	0.43	0.50	0.47	0.29	†	†	†	†	0.09
1977	0.48	0.55	0.51	0.31	†	†	†	†	0.14
1982	0.56	0.65	0.58	0.37	†	†	†	†	0.24
1987	0.61	0.72	0.62	0.41	†	†	†	†	0.28
1992	0.62	0.72	0.63	0.39	0.23	†	0.17	†	0.10
1997	0.60	0.64	0.54	0.35	0.21	†	0.17	†	†
2002	0.58	0.62	0.51	0.37	0.23	†	0.14	†	†
2003	0.60	0.64	0.51	0.38	0.21	0.07	0.10	0.20	†
2004	0.60	0.64	0.50	0.39	0.22	†	0.11	0.21	†
2005	0.60	0.64	0.51	0.40	0.20	†	0.11	0.21	†
South									
1972	0.58	0.67	0.63	0.49	†	†	†	†	0.10
1977	0.59	0.69	0.65	0.52	†	†	†	†	0.12
1982	0.65	0.76	0.70	0.66	†	†	†	†	0.16
1987	0.65	0.75	0.68	0.59	†	†	†	†	0.23
1992	0.65	0.76	0.69	0.62	0.21	†	0.12	†	0.06
1997	0.62	0.66	0.59	0.49	0.17	†	0.13	†	†
2002	0.60	0.64	0.56	0.51	0.18	†	0.12	†	†
2003	0.59	0.63	0.54	0.50	0.18	†	0.09	0.16	†
2004	0.59	0.63	0.54	0.50	0.19	0.04	0.09	0.17	†
2005	0.59	0.63	0.53	0.52	0.17	†	0.09	0.18	†

See notes at end of table.

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

Table S5-2. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Selected years, Fall 1972–2005—Continued

Region and fall of year	Minority enrollment							
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race
West								
1972	0.75	0.87	0.48	1.08	†	†	†	†
1977	0.76	0.89	0.50	1.08	†	†	†	†
1982	0.85	0.99	0.47	1.27	†	†	†	†
1987	0.84	0.98	0.51	1.09	†	†	†	†
1992	0.84	0.98	0.46	1.13	0.52	†	0.25	†
1997	0.76	0.80	0.40	0.78	0.48	†	0.24	†
2002	0.72	0.76	0.35	0.76	0.42	†	0.23	†
2003	0.72	0.76	0.34	0.78	0.40	0.15	0.17	0.27
2004	0.71	0.76	0.36	0.80	0.39	0.12	0.19	0.26
2005	0.71	0.76	0.34	0.78	0.39	0.11	0.17	0.27

† Not applicable.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2005.